# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3358
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2001
WATER CATCHMENT AREAS
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;RAMJI LAL SUMAN;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether water catchment areas have been prepared in view of availability of water in the rivers;

(b) if so, the number and locations of small, medium and big water catchment areas in the country at present, State- wise; and

(c) the quantum of average annual availability of water in each catchment area?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) The catchment area of a river is a natural watershed area starting from all such points which separate it from adjacent watershed (ridge line) to its terminal point. Catchment area is also known as river basin. The catchment areas (river basins) are categorized, based on their drainage area, into three groups i.e. major (20,000 square kilometer and above), medium (between 20,000 and 2000 sqkm) and minor (below 2000 sqkm). Accordingly, there are 12 major (big) and 46 medium river basins besides numerous minor (small) river systems in the country. For the purpose of planning and development of water resources in the country, besides the major river basins, the medium and minor river systems have been suitably combined together into 8 composite basins. The water resources are assessed basinwise. As per the latest assessment made by the Central Water Commission, the average annual flow in the river systems of India is about 1869 Billion Cubic Metre(BCM). Detailsof all the 20 basins, their catchment areas, names of States / Union Territories part of which lies in the basin and average annual flow are given in Annex.